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TANFIELD

Urban District Council.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S

Annual Report

For 1908.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT *FOR 1908.*

HARPERLEY,

February, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to your Council my report for the year 1908 under the following headings, viz :—

(i) The Health of the District with regard to Zymotic Diseases.

(ii) The Vital Statistics.

(iii) A brief account of its Sanitary Condition and work done under the Inspector.

(iv) Its examination under the Factory and Workshops' Act.

Coal-mining is the principal industry, all others are practically depending upon it for their existence. The past year has been fairly prosperous, and the unemployed have not troubled your district.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases reported during the year amounted to a total of 90, made up of the following, viz. : 28 of Scarlatina, 29 of Diphtheria, 8 of Enteric Fever, and 25 of Erysipelas. It will be seen from the limited number of the cases that none of the diseases assumed the form of an epidemic, although they were all more or less present throughout the year. Scarlatina may be considered a permanent resident in colliery villages. Its convalescent, or peeling stage, appears to keep up its permanency. In the case of Diphtheria, the retention of infection on the person a few weeks after recovery has taken place, is the basis of infection. With Enteric Fever, contact appears to be the only means of spreading it, viz., friendly visits from the healthy to the sick. The whole of the cases reported of the last-named disease were confined to the villages of Tanfield, Tantobie, and Tantobie Lea, and all were

transferred to the Hospital as soon as the nature of the disease was discovered. In the case of Erysipelas there was no evidence of the disease having been conveyed in a direct manner from one case to the other.

The Isolation Hospital is situated within your boundary, and although a fair proportion of eligible cases were admitted to it, yet the inhabitants shew a decided objection to having their children removed from home. In every case where there was home treatment, a room was set apart for the use of the patient. There is, however, a feeling that the objections to removing are gradually decreasing.

The original Small Pox Hospital at Maiden Law has been transformed into a Sanatorium, to which the Guardians send the Phthisical cases. Patients are also accepted through the advice of your M.O.H., and charged to your Authority.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES.—There was a small invasion in January, which soon passed off, leaving three fatalities.

WHOOPING COUGH was present at the end of 1907, and continued more or less for nearly six months. It spread so rapidly in March that it was considered advisable to close the schools at Burnopfield and Leazes, which certainly had a beneficial effect. The mortality was exceedingly light, only three deaths resulted.

DIARRHŒA and EPIDEMIC ENTERITIS were rather prevalent, but not fatally during the hot weather.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 355, giving a rate of 36.99, and the deaths were 144, giving a rate of 15 per 1,000, estimating the population at the end of June at 9,600. The Birth-rate is equal to the County average, whereas the Death-rate is much below. Deaths from Zymotic Diseases numbered 23, being fairly satisfactory. Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 shews a marked decline, not only upon the previous year, but also upon that of the County. The mortality among children under one year of age was 38, this was proportionally small, being less than a third of the whole deaths. Constitutional diseases still cause a large number of deaths. Premature Birth, Atrophy, etc., were responsible for half of the deaths of infants.

The following table shews the averages of births and deaths for the County in comparison with those of the district :—

		County.	Tanfield.
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	...	37·0	... 36·99
Death-rate " "	...	17·5	... 15
Zymotic death-rate "	...	2·70	... 2·38
Infantile mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	...	151	... 107
Small-pox per 1,000 population	...	nil	... nil
Scarlet Fever " "	...	0·07	... 0·41
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup		0·18	... 0·83
Fever (Enteric & Continued) 1 000 pop.		0·18	... 0·31
Measles per 1,000 population	...	0·27	... 0·31
Whooping Cough "	...	0·53	... 0·31
Diarrhœa "	...	1·44	... 0·20
Phthisis "	...	0·95	... 0·83
Other Tubercular Diseases per 1,000 pop.		0·70	... 0·83
Acute Respiratory Diseases "		2·81	... 2·81

SURVEYORS' AND INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT.

The building trade has been fairly active. During the year 73 new houses have been built, situated chiefly at Burnopfield and Tantobie. Two of them are tenemented with 2 rooms above, and 2 below with a yard common to two tenements. The remaining 71 are self-contained houses with 4 or more rooms to each, having all the out-offices complete.

Under the term Old Property, includes all premises built before your Authority assumed control over their form of construction. The basis of every village is Old Property, and the new premises are merely additions, the latter having all their sanitary accessories satisfactory need not be referred to again. The district is composed of villages and clumps of houses, and those omitted in the following statement are not requiring any special attention for the present.

WHITE-LE-HEAD. The houses comprising this village are not built on any arranged scheme, but are planted down indiscriminately, so that there are neither streets nor footpaths. The great objection in the village seems to be the lack of ventilation by the absence of back doors. In the centre of the village there are 29 houses in this state. The same applies to Corven Houses, but in addition 4 of these are damp and otherwise defective, and the out-offices are delapidated. Those that possess upstairs rooms are in the majority of cases reached by step-ladders. There are 8 one-roomed houses in occupation.

TANTOBIE.—In this village the same state of things occurs as in White-le-Head, even as far as the arrangement of houses is concerned. There are about 30 houses with no back doors and only very limited ventilation from small pantry windows. Many of the upstairs rooms are reached by step-ladders, and the out-offices are not only scanty but inconveniently placed.

TANFIELD LEA.—The houses here are of more modern design than those previously mentioned, but are nevertheless still defective in their sanitary condition. They have been, and are still undergoing great changes for the better. Although there are 27 houses without back doors, yet there is good ventilation by means of windows, and taking the villages on the whole, the houses are comfortable, and the whole surroundings present a cleanly appearance. The owners have built 12 cottages for retired miners, and these are very cosy and withal pretty.

TANFIELD CROSSING.—There are 2 houses not properly ventilated.

TANFIELD.—There are 14 houses without satisfactory through ventilation, and some of the out-offices in inconvenient positions.

CLOUGH DENE.—The majority of the houses here can only be fitly described as hovels. Six houses in the valley are without back doors, with imperfect ventilation, with step-ladders where there are up-stairs rooms, with some damp floors, and with water to carry from a distance. Three of the cottages are single-roomed, of which 2 are occupied by old couples, and the other by a man, wife and child, and this latter is without a pantry. There are about 15 more houses placed on the side of the hill, and of these only three are ventilated by a back entrance

MOUNTSETT.—In this small block there are 15 houses either without backdoors or else placed back to back.

HOBSON.—The Cross Rows consist of 38 houses placed back to back, and the only ventilation and light to the upper rooms are given by small windows in the roof and are reached by step-ladders. A number of out-offices are faulty in structure and ought to be replaced by a better type. These have been before your board for some considerable time.

BURNOPFIELD.—In this village there are 12 houses back to back, otherwise the place is in a very fair condition.

LINTZ. There are still in existence a few of the old privy middens, and several of the yards require either cementing or asphaltting. Many of the houses are only provided with a step-ladder entrance to the upstairs rooms. There are 6 houses at the Brick Flats with only one room each.

FRIAR SIDE.—Most of these houses are wooden erections, fairly good. There are, however, 5 with only one room each. Minute details are not necessary as the defective premises already mentioned are well known to your Board through the reports of your Inspector. However, considerable improvements have been made in the course of the year. Seven houses have been closed as unfit for habitation, 13 underwent structural alterations, 4 were demolished, and 25 were dealt with under the Workmen's Housing Act. Of the old out-offices 68 were replaced by modern structures and numerous jetty nuisances have been abated.

SEWAGE WORKS.—The sewage and drainage of the whole district is practically complete, and the sewage is conveyed to the various outfall works. The system of purification is carried out by intermittent land filtration, bacteriological filtration and broad irrigation. The action of all is satisfactory.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.—This done by contract and under the supervision of your Inspector and is done satisfactorily. The refuse is deposited where it creates no nuisance to the inhabitants.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are eight Slaughter Houses in the district, and they are free from any nuisance.

MILK SUPPLY.—The various villages in the district are well supplied with milk, distributed from door to door. There are about 27 purveyors, and these keep their utensils for storing milk in a cleanly condition, otherwise they would suffer a pecuniary loss by their neglect. The cow-keepers have fairly descent byres and none of the cows are stall-fed, all having land to allow an outing.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply is abundant and of good quality from the resevoirs of the Weardale and Consett Water Co.

The Schools are splendid structures.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT.

The duty of carrying out this Act devolves upon the Medical Officer and Inspector who are required to visit all premises where workmen are employed, and to inquire into the conditions under which they are labouring. These conditions imply air space, no overcrowding, freedom from dampness, sufficient out-office accommodation, and easy means of escape in case of fire. There is one important item—the ascertaining if deleterious material is employed at any of the works. The district contains 10 Factories and 9 Workshops—the former consist of Brick works, Gas works, Saw mills, Electric works, and Cabinet Making, and the latter are made of Tailors, Shoe-makers, Milliners, Bakers (retail), Cartwrights and Blacksmiths. The Act had evidently been carefully carried out, nothing of an objectionable character was discovered.

Attached are the various Government Forms.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
TANFIELD.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.		Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.		Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1898	7,700	318	41.3	48	151	127	16.4			3	127	16.4			
1899	7,900	319	40.3	44	138	135	17			1	135	17			
1900	8,100	318	39.2	61	191.8	141	17.4			8	141	17.4			
1901	8,300	354	42.6	52	146.8	138	16.6				138	16.4			
1902	8,500	319	37.5	46	144.2	149	17.5	1		3	148	17.4			
1903	8,700	306	35.1	57	186.25	150	17.25	7		2	143	16.4			
1904	8,900	312	35	63	201.2	172	19.3	10		4	166	18.6			
1905	9,000	294	32.7	53	180.2	152	16.9	14			142	15.8			
1906	9,100	295	32.4	43	145.7	128	14.07	15		5	124	13.6			
1907	9,300	320	34.4	38	118.7	142	15.2	9		3	138	14.8			
Averages for years 1898-1907.															
1908	8,550	315	37.05	50	160.4	143	16.76	9		3	140	16.4			
	9,600	355	36.99	38	107	142	14.8	9		9	144	15			

Area of District in acres)
(exclusive of area) 6650
covered by water,)

Total population at all ages 8276
Number of inhabited houses 1632
Average number of persons per house 5.6
At Census of 1901.

Table III.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upward	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ..								
Diphtheria (in- cluding Mem- branous croup	29		4	13	8	4		23
Erysipelas ..	25				6	19		
Scarlet fever ...	28	2	8	17	1			13
Typhus fever...								
Enteric fever ...	8			1	1	6		8
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever								
Plague ...								
Totals ...	90	2	12	31	16	29		44

Isolation Hospital at Tanfield.

Total available beds 59.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4 or 5.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—
Tanfield Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—
Lanchester Union. County Asylum.

Small-Pox Hospital at Maiden Law, now used as a Sanatorium.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities
in the District—NIL.

Table IV.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non- Residents in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox								
Measles	8		3					
Scarlet fever	4	1	1	2				2
Whooping-cough	3		3					
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup	8	1	3	3	1			4
Croup								
{ Typhus								
{ Enteric	3					3		3
{ Other contin'd								
Epidemic influenza	1					1		
Cholera								
Plague... ..								
Diarrhœa	2	1				1		
Enteritis	5	4	1					
Puerperal fever	1					1		
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases...								
Phthisis (Pulmonary								
Tuberculosis)	8				4	4		
Other tubercular diseases	8	1	3	2	2			
Cancer, malignant disease	6					5	1	
Bronchitis	7	3	1			2	1	
Pneumonia	19	7	4		3	3	2	
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs	1						1	
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of liver)								
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	3	3						
Diseases and accidents of parturition								
Heart diseases	10					5	5	
Accidents	2		1			1		
Suicides	1					1		
All other causes	56	17	2	3	2	17	15	
All causes	151	38	22	10	12	44	25	9

THOMAS BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health*

February 10th, 1909.

Table V.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Yr.
All Causes	{ Certified	...	...															
	{ Uncertified	...	...															
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	...															
	Chicken-pox	...	...															
	Measles	...	...															
	Scarlet Fever	...	...															1		1
	Diphtheria : Croup	...	...													1				1
	Whooping Cough	...	...															
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms	..	..						1											1
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	}	}								1	1							1	3
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	}	}														1			1
	Premature Birth	...	...	3				3												3
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects	...	...	2				2												2
	Injury at Birth ...	...	...	1				1												1
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	}	}																	
	Atrophy, Debility Marasmus	}	}	3	1	1	1	6	3	3			1							13
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...								1									1
	Tuberculous Peritonitis	...	...															
	Tabes Mesenterica	...	...															
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...															
Other Causes.	Erysipelas	...	...															
	Syphilis ...	...	...															
	Rickets ...	...	...															
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...															
	Convulsions	...	...															
	Bronchitis	...	...		1			1				2								3
	Laryngitis	...	...															
	Pneumonia	...	...										2		1			2	2	7
	Suffocation, overlaying...	...	...															
	Other Causes	...	...				1	1												1
				9	2	1	2	14	4	3	2	3	3		1	1	1	3	3	38

Births in the year { legitimate 345.
 { illegitimate 10.

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 33
 { illegitimate 5

TANFILD URBAN DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories ...	10	20	Nil.	Nil.
Including Factory Laundries)				
Workshops ...	9	18	Nil.	Nil.
(Including Workshop Laundries)				
Workplaces ...	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	...	38		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Nil.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Not registered.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

T. BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 10th, 1909.

The Annual Reports

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

AND THE

Medical Inspection of the Children
of the Elementary Schools

FOR THE YEAR **1908.**

BY

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